ITEM A: REVIEW OF JUSTICE COURT
Duncan Murray reviewed information about Perry City Justice Court with the Council. He said in the past Perry City had its own Justice Court, but per the Legislature and Judicial has removed this ability from the City and the City cannot have this option again. He said currently the city uses Box Elder County for its Justice court and functionally it works fine, but there are issues with the allocation of revenue. The city has looked into the Willard City Justice court, but this would require the Police to change their philosophy on writing tickets, the city has not pursued this further, but could if the Council directed them to. Another option for the city is to look at Mantua or Tremonton City Justice Courts. He explained that the reason the city staff is looking into Justice Court options is because many are convinced that revenue belonging to Perry City is not being allocated to the city due to reporting structure and system issues at the County.

Duncan said related to this issue, is that the City is trying to annex the Port of Entry into Perry City, which would put this in Perry City’s jurisdiction and would increase ticket revenue. He said the city has provided culinary water service to the Port of Entry for 34 years, but it is currently in an unincorporated area so is in the County’s jurisdiction.

Duncan requested direction or input on the Justice Court issue. Council Member Cronin asked if we have looked into the Mantua Justice Court. Duncan said not at this time, but if given direction tonight, they could start this process.

Duncan stated Box Elder County is aware that the City is exploring options; they have offered to up the contract to 55%, if the city is willing to start transporting their solid waste to the Box Elder County Landfill. He advised that the problem with this option is the City’s garbage service contractor will charge $2.00 extra per can per month if they are required to transfer waste to Box Elder County. Mayor Nelson stated this will cost the residents more than what the city would gain from the increased fine and forfeiture revenue.

Council Member Cronin asked if Perry City moves the court to Mantua, how much additional revenue does the City anticipates receiving. Duncan stated $15,000 to $30,000 more per year. Council Member asked why this would increase revenue. Duncan said because the tickets will not get misapplied or lost, and the second reason is because nothing prevents the City from negotiating a better contract. For instance the city could negotiate a contract that would allow the city to pay the Court only the increased cost of the judge and clerks or pay one fixed fee. He said the city is one full time officer short and is
looking at ways to fund this position. The additional revenue gained from moving the Court combined with savings on overtime, and on-call time, could fund this position without raising taxes. The Council directed Duncan to get more information from Tremonton and Mantua City on using their Justice Court services.

Interim Police Chief, Dale Weese added the City would also move the traffic school and may be able to gain additional revenue from this.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49PM.

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Susan Obray, City Recorder               Jerry Nelson, Mayor

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Shanna Johnson, Chief Deputy Recorder